



# Potters Guild of British Columbia

1359 Cartwright St., Granville Island  
Vancouver, B.C. V6H 3R7  
(604) 683-9623

## Newsletter

**MAY 1993**

**ISSN 6319 812X**

### 1994 GUILD SALE UPDATE

In the April Newsletter, it appeared from the Board meeting notes that some decisions had already been made regarding the proposed 1994 pottery sale. With further discussion, it became clear that the mandate of the sale is that it's **a sale for all the members by the members**. Decisions have to be made by the members who want it to happen. To this end, there has to be an initial organizational meeting for **all** who want to be involved, to have their say in what they want to happen and how they want it to be run. **It won't happen without your input!**

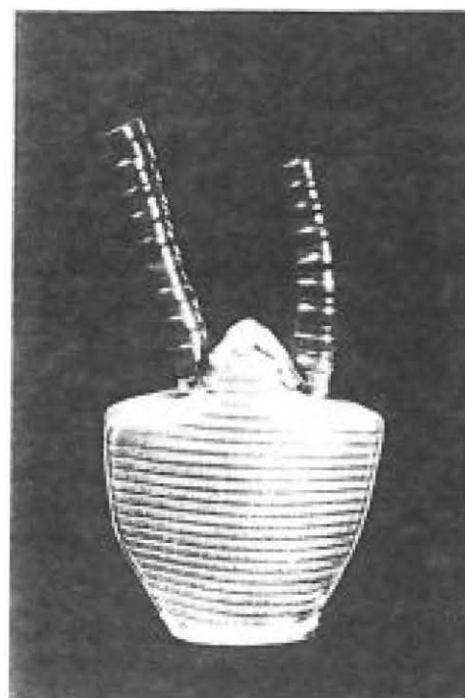
A meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 25th at 7:30 pm at the Gallery of B.C. Ceramics at 1359 Cartwright Street, Vancouver. If we run out of space, an alternative space has been booked on Granville Island.

In preparation for the meeting, please take a few minutes to complete the enclosed **questionnaire**. Please mail before May 20th to me, **Cathi Jefferson**, at my address noted on the bottom of the questionnaire, so that your thoughts and suggestions can be correlated and presented at the meeting as a starting point for discussion and decision-making. Out-of-towners who can't make the meeting, this is your opportunity to directly affect decisions that need to be made. If you need additional copies for group members, please feel free to xerox.

The Oregon Potters' Guild's annual "Showcase" sale is happening May 14th through 16th in the Convention Centre in Portland. Currently three or four people are planning to attend from B.C., funding the trip from their own pocket,

to get a better understanding of how it all comes together. If anyone else is also interested in going, or would like to discuss any aspects of the sale, please phone me at 929-9175. We hope to video the May 25th meeting, so if individuals, guilds or clubs outside the Lower Mainland would like to view a copy for the price of postage, they are welcome. Update in the June newsletter.

Cathi Jefferson and Keith Rice-Jones  
May, 1993



*Jay MacLennan*

In the June issue: (we hope) an article from Bob Kingsmill, plus information about upcoming workshops and seminars in the latter half of the year. Let us know about what's happening in your area, as well.

**The Workshop Committee is in the process of planning for the 1993-94 season. We would appreciate your input as to whom you would like to see. Please!! Write down any suggestions you may have and return them with the Sale questionnaire. Alternatively, suggestions may be left on the answering machine at the Guild office at 683-9623.**

### STUDIO 5 AWARDED

The recipient of the 1993-94 Studio 5 Program has been announced by the Board of Directors of the Guild. **Jay MacLennan**, a graduating fourth year student at the Emily Carr College of Art and Design, was selected from among six applicants. Jay will begin work this month, and we welcome him; we also wish **Allsa Brown** well in her continuing work. (Her work is the feature at the Gallery this month). In his application, Jay commented:

*Most of my prior ceramic work has been high fire reduction. Lately, I am becoming more curious about the effects of slightly brighter, vibrant colours, and the more controlled surface effects which lower temperature firings could offer. The curiosity is exaggerated as I prepare to leave the college facilities (gas kilns) behind. I am especially excited about the possibilities of using low fired slips, particularly low-fired vitrifying slips and coloured terra sigillata, both of which I have briefly attempted. I am also curious about the use of silicon carbide to create localized reduction in an electric kiln, as well as its ability to add surface texture.*

## **The Potters Guild of B.C. NEWSLETTER**

is published 10 times a year as a service to the the Membership. Submissions are welcome, and should be in the Guild office by the last Friday of the month. Material may be edited for publication.

**Managing Editor:** Jan Kidnie

**Mailing:** Anna Bjarnason,  
Gillian McMillan

### **Advertising Rates: (incl. GST)**

\$120.00 full page; \$50.00 half page;  
\$35.00 quarter page; \$25.00 half  
column. Classified ads: \$8.00 mini-  
mum, up to 3 lines; \$2.00 per col-  
umn line thereafter. All ads to be  
prepaid. Deadline is the last Friday  
of the month.

**Membership in the Potters' Guild  
of British Columbia** is \$26.75 for  
individuals, \$42.80 for groups of  
two or more, January to December  
(including GST) See application form  
elsewhere in this issue.

**Board of Directors, 1993:** Tam  
Irving, President; Nathan Raffle, Vice-  
President; June MacDonald, Secre-  
tary; Anita Wong, Treasurer; with  
Sarah Coote, Linda Doherty, Kersti  
Krug, Carol Mayer, Friederike Rahn,  
Keith Rice-Jones, Elsa Schamis, and  
Ron Vallis.

**Staff:** Jan Kidnie, Guild Office Ad-  
ministrator, Coralie Triance, Man-  
ager, with Lea Price and Kaoru  
Coates, Gallery of B.C. Ceramics.

## **BOARD MEETING NOTES**

At the April 8th meeting, Tam, June, Keith, Anita, Elsa, Ron, Kersti, and Nathan, as well as Coralie Triance, Gallery Manager, were present. Absent were Carol, Linda, Fredi and Sarah.

### **Items of Interest:**

- Proposed budget for the Ceramics Foundation has been submitted to Ottawa for review, and we are awaiting final approval on the Foundation itself.
- The preliminary Guild and Gallery budgets for the 1993 year were presented and are tabled for final approval at the May Board meeting. Meanwhile, the Board approved in principal the expenditure of up to \$1000 for building signage in front of the Gallery.

### **Offices and Committees:**

- Nathan agreed to continue as Vice President for another term.
- The Publications Committee will consist of Elsa Schamis, Chair, and Anita Wong, with Jan Kidnie, Elwin Lowe and Debra Sloan as ex-officio members.
- A Workshop Cttee. Chair and Library Cttee Head are being sought
- Other items discussed and included elsewhere in this issue are:
  - the proposed annual sale
  - a call for volunteers in the Gallery
  - Studio 5 resident

J. MacDonald/per Rosemary Amon

## **WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW AND RENEWING MEM- BERS OF THE POTTERS' GUILD OF B.C. SINCE EARLY APRIL:**

Jacqui Berglund, Vancouver;  
Charles Breth, Columbus, Ohio;  
Robert Buhler, Vancouver;  
Hope Caton, Vancouver;  
Burt Cohen, Armstrong;  
Len Digance, Burnaby;  
Keiko Fitz-Earle, Richmond;  
Barb Gillian, Bella Coola;  
Sue Hara, Victoria;  
Anne Marie Hart, Gibsons;  
Simon Ho, North Vancouver;  
Jacquie Hofmann, Vancouver;  
Susan Kavanagh, Richmond;  
Maggi Kneer, N.Vancouver;

Sam Kwan, Vancouver;  
Lesley Lloyd, Williams Lake;  
Cindy Morrison, N.Vancouver;  
Michael Newton, N.Vancouver;  
Gillian Paynter, Peachland;  
Debra Sloan, Vancouver;  
Sam Uhlick, Edmonton;  
Jackie White, Vancouver;  
Ping Sung Wong, Vancouver;  
and the  
Burnaby Potters Guild,  
Comox Valley Potters Club  
West Point Grey Potters Club.

You are reminded that membership runs from January to December, and that unless membership fees are received by the end of March, you will stop receiving the Newsletter in April. Thank you to all who have renewed so promptly this year.



Gallery of B.C. Ceramics  
1359 Cartwright St. Granville Island  
Vancouver, B.C. Canada  
(604) 669-5645 V6H 3R7

## GALLERY REPORT

April's feature, the work of **Suzy Birstein**, has brought bright colour into an otherwise gray month; thank you, Suzy. **Ailsa Brown** who has been Studio 5 resident this past year has a feature of her work in the Gallery for the month of May. Her painted earthenwares have wonderful form and colour.

The Gallery Selections Committee has met in late April, and has reviewed the work of nine applicants for Gallery admission. The work of the following three was accepted: Ronda Green, Jay MacLennan, and the raku work of Lynne Johnson (already selling her salt-glazed work).

## EXHIBITIONS AND SALES

**Peter Flanagan** with "New Works in Porcelain" at the Circle Craft Gallery, on Granville Island from May 6 to June 2nd.

The **Delta Potters Club Annual Show** will be held from May 3 to 28th at the Delta Community Arts Council Gallery, 8251 Scott Rd., Monday to Friday from 11 to 4, Saturday, 12 to 5.

Their **Summer Sale** will be held Sunday, June 16th from 10 to 4pm at the Kiwanis Long House at the South Delta Rec Centre in Tswwassen.

"**Gardens Galore**" a group exhibition will be held at the **Out of Hand Gallery**, 566 Johnson St., Victoria until May 22.

**Guay Works Gallery**, Gower Pt. Rd. in Gibsons announces "**The First Show**", featuring the work of local artists including Pat Forst and Katie Janyk, until May 31st.

"**Fired-Up!**", a Sale and Exhibition of Contemporary Works in Clay, will be held May 29th and 30th in the Metchosin Community Hall, 10 am to 5pm. Work by Meg and Alan Burgess, Louise Card, Judi Dyelle, Sue Hara, Robin Hopper, Gordon Hutchens, Susan LePoidevin, Dianne Searle, and Pat Webber will be joined with that of guest artists Denys James, Kinichi Shigeno, Martha Nickoloff James and Gordon James. Contact 474-2676 or 380-9142.

The **Denman Island Studio Tour** will be held May 22 and 23rd, from 10 am to 5pm. Maps available on the ferry to Denman Island.

The **Northwest International Art Competition**, held at the Whatcom Museum, Arco Exhibits Building, Bellingham, will open June 4th, with the show running from May 29th to August 8th



*Suzy Birstein*



*Gwynn Hansen Pigott*  
(see review page 5)



## JUGS UPDATE

April was an extremely busy month here on Granville Island. The Guild office took on the look of a freight department, with boxes full of jugs arriving en masse daily. It was a very exciting time, and all of you who were able to take part should be congratulated on your endeavour. A total of 72 entries was made; 56 people actually were able to send work, and as you see below in his statement, John Chalke spent a busy day on April 4th selecting the work for the exhibition which opens in the Canadian Craft Museum's Galleria on June 4th, 1993. The opening date has changed from last newsletter information, so please make note of it; it will correspond with the opening that same evening of "The Pleasure of Making", the Crafts Association of B.C.'s annual Made by Hand juried show.

### Juror's Statement

"Sunday morning, the pleasure of Granville Island. That uncommon sun was coming through the slatted windows and the streets below were filling up with visitors. I wandered constantly between the two rooms (at the Guild office) touching pots long cold and far away from people's kilns. Because of this constant feeling of slight indigestion when more difficult pots are placed next to more accessible ones, I spent much time carrying certain ones away to mutual corners where they could have a chance to pick up their own energy again.

You weren't there, so, as a sharing experience, some figures (about the entries). Twenty-nine pieces were eventually selected from the fifty-five submissions. About half were thrown, seven were vapour-glazed, sixteen were earthenware, fourteen emphasized the spout considerably over other features, whereas twelve didn't do so at all, possibly even de-emphasized it. The smaller entry was approximately 18 cm. high, the largest was about 72 cm.

In the traditional sense of a workshop-thrown pitcher, I felt almost all lacked a spring or a lilt to them. Merely (and sometimes barely) perfunctory, sad to say. Many others, slab or coil-built, carried along extra baggage in terms of unrelated weight. And yet, perhaps predictably, it was in this wider category that the most varied work was seen. All in all, there were fewer references to metaphor than to some kind of function.

It's been said before; it has to be one of the obligatory constants of jurors' statements, but I do know that some people did not send in their best work. Of course, this is such a subjective remark, but all the same, I saw much better work elsewhere on the Island by the same makers than was offered upstairs. And not just once or twice. I saw this phenomenon recently again in Alberta in a similar situation. Who knows why this is. Do I do it also? Do we all do it? Is it that we don't know our best work when we have to choose, or do we in slight desperation select our latest, feeling that newest equates with most mature? Maybe it's that simple.

In summary, I much enjoyed the experience of viewing the variety of B.C. clay and its kilns, and feel privileged to be a small part of one of the Potters' Guild of B.C.'s current activities.

John Chalke,  
Calgary, Alberta, 1993

## VIDEO UPDATE

The Tara Production "Variations on Raku" with Gordon Hutchens is finally in the Guild library, and may be rented for up to 10 days for \$8.00 to cover handling charges.

The following submitted work that has been selected for the **Jugs: Pitchers, Dippers and Metaphors** exhibition which will be on display at the Canadian Craft Museum until mid-July.

Unless otherwise noted, they are from British Columbia.

Graeme Allemeersch, Summerland  
Leslie G. Beardsley, Ladysmith  
Gail Boden, Prince George  
Heather Chapman, North Vancouver  
Kaoru Coates, Vancouver  
Stephen Cooke, New Denver  
Sarah Coote, Vancouver  
Wendy L. Davis, Vancouver  
Connie Glover, Surrey  
Barbara Goretzky,  
Duck Lake, Saskatchewan  
Simon Ho, Coquitlam  
Denys James, Ganges  
Cathi Jefferson, North Vancouver  
Lynne Johnson, Courtenay  
Charmian Johnson,  
Gargoyle Factory, Vancouver  
Sam Kwan, Vancouver  
Radana Losert, Vancouver  
Jeannie Mah, Regina, Saskatchewan  
Gillian McMillan, Port Moody  
Nathan Rafla, Vancouver  
Friederike Rahn, Vancouver  
Celia Rice-Jones, Burnaby  
Keith Rice Jones, Burnaby  
Lari Robson, Ganges  
Laurie Rolland, Sechelt  
Elsa Schamis, New Westminster  
Melissa Searcy, Ganges  
Diane E. Sullivan, Seattle, WA  
Andrew Wong, Kamloops

Four entries were given special mention by John Chalke; those by Kaoru Coates, Gillian McMillan, Laurie Rolland, and Elsa Schamis.

## A WORKSHOP WITH GWYN HANSSEN PIGOTT

Twenty-five Guild members signed up for the April 17th session at Emily Carr, in anticipation of the opportunity to meet and hear one individual who has such a history as a potter. If one spent the whole six hours with her that day, it was impossible to come away without a silent inner cheer, a "Hoorah!", for this person who has managed to pack what appears to be several lives into 40 years of working with clay, all the while obviously maintaining a very strong, quiet focus on her work as a potter.

She started out the morning with a demonstration of throwing the simple vessel forms in porcelain, while maintaining a dialogue with those present about both technical and philosophical dilemmas and concerns. She uses a very short, highly silicious porcelain clay to accommodate the high feldspar glazes, wood-firing to Cone 13 in her "Bouri", French-style kiln. While the clay predates to a degree the kind of throwing she presently does, Gwyn has as her main objective the creation of "still lives", and her concerns are with the forms and their relationships. Individual pieces, the small tumblers, bowls, and bottles are seen as components in the "sketches" she assembles. The shino-type glaze she uses is designed for the wood kiln, using only soda or potash as flux, with iron giving a wide range of warm colours, and stains also being used. With her traditional background, it's encouraging to know that she has been willing to be "flexible" and "accept" electric wheels and commercial stains in her work. She readily acknowledges the very real limitations that we may impose on ourselves and our work by dogmatically refusing to change. She also admits to a few "dead ends", where she had to accept that her direction was wrong for her, and made changes.

With the afternoon slide show, Gwyn discussed her early influences and showed a sampling of the pots that had inspired her, with relatively few shots of her own work prior to returning to Australia and the Jam Factory

workshops in Adelaide. She now lives in tropical Queensland in a relatively remote area on her own.

It's been pointed out that Gwyn's visit was unique in several ways. Firstly, there haven't been a lot of women potters in town lately to give one or two day workshops. The Potters' Guild has been visited by numerous men potters, and there's no denying that Gwyn was an interesting change. Secondly, and I don't think it's related to her being female, her work is simpler and more direct than a lot we have been exposed to lately. And yet, is it? It certainly makes us look very carefully.

Gwyn's accompanying text to her show at the Crafthouse on Granville Island (and where these photos were taken) included the following statements, which sum up quite well her approach to her work and life.

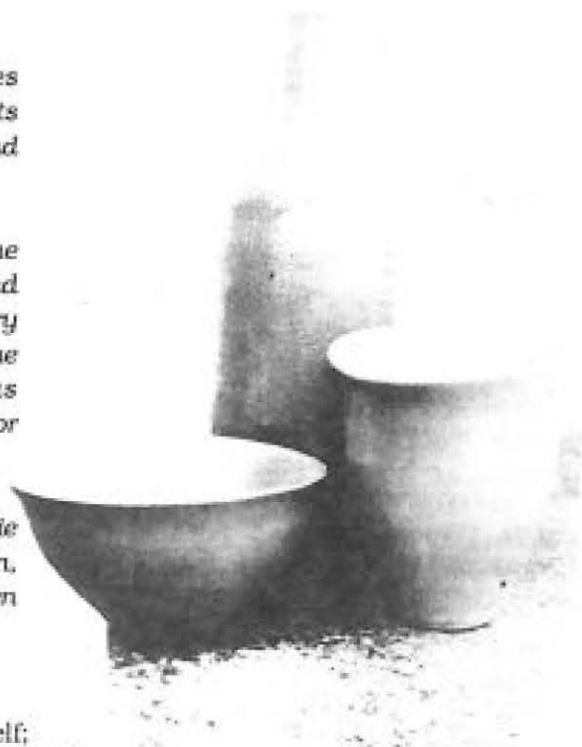
Morandi, in *Nothing if not Critical* (Collins, Harvill, 1990) wrote:

*"Modestly, insistently, Morandi's images try to slow the eye, asking it to give up its inattention, its restless scanning, and give full weight to something small."*

*When Japanese aesthetes spoke of the quality called wabi, they had in mind something like this: the clarity of ordinary substance seen for itself, in its true quality....Morandi's entire life was predicated on the prolonged search for it."*

*Morandi is an obvious inspiration; Lucie Rie, too. Hans Coper too. Ivan McMeekin, Piero della Francesca. Juan Gris. Ben Nicholson too.*

And lovely others, people and work.  
But more than these, the mystery itself;  
the kindness of the stillness beneath the skin.  
Luckily, beauty can't be understood - only hoped for  
and sometimes felt.  
Brancusi's *Birds in Space*, a Korean penny rice bowl;  
even, perhaps (I fervently believe) a beaker.



Gwyn Hanssen Pigott, November 1991

## WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

**The Metchosin International Summer School of the Arts** holds its one and two week classes in many disciplines at the L.B. Pearson College west of Victoria, including **Robin Hopper** on Glaze and Colour Development, and **Randy Broadnax** on Raku Techniques and Ceramic Kiln Building. General admission deadline was April 15th, but call (604)478-5591, or fax (604)478-6421, for possibilities.

The following will serve as an introduction to the raku artist and his two week intensive kiln-building workshop at MISSA starting June 20th.

**Randy Broadnax**, one of the best known potters in Texas, and currently head of the Ceramics Dept. at Cedar Valley College near Dallas, will present a **RAKU** workshop at the West Point Grey Community Centre in Vancouver (Aberthau Coach House) on Sunday, June 13th. Randy has specialized in raku for many years, and is a very inventive technician and a master in the art of kiln design and fabrication. The workshop will focus on how kilns can be adapted of independent potters at a low cost. Randy will bring his portable raku kiln which fires through Cone 06 to 10. As well as sharing his knowledge and a variety of experimental glazes, he will show how to build a wood-firing raku kiln that fires in 30 minutes.

Participants should bring three or more pieces of their bisqued raku clay work (8" high, max) and some brushes. On Saturday, a relaxed evening including a slide presentation and tales of the Louisiana swamp will be held at the home of the host, John Givins, at 1521 Salisbury Dr. BYOB. A Cajun style dinner will be cooked by the artist (who loves cooking as much as clay) at the same address on Sunday night. Registration is \$40, and \$10 for the dinner. Phone 224-1910 to register, at 255-8166.

□ □ □

## FOCUS 1993

**APA** and Fairview Studios in Calgary offers a four week program to recognize the local experts and to provide an opportunity for you to work with them in an educational environment.

June 28 to July 2, 7 pm to 10pm daily,  
**Raku Kiln Building with David Settles**

July 5 to July 9, 9 am to 5 pm daily,  
**Intermediate Wheel throwing with Anita Dumins**

July 12 to July 16, 9am to 5 pm daily  
**Stoneware Slip and Glaze Decoration with Don Wells.** Mount Royal College housing available. For more information, contact Fairview Studios at (403)255-7882.

□ □ □

**NORTHWEST CLAY SYMPOSIUM**, hosted by Washington Potters Association, Pottery Northwest, Kirkland Arts Centre and the U of W School of Art, will be held September 17 to 19th, 1993, in Seattle and Kirkland. Full details to come before July.

## MARKET OPPORTUNITY

The Juniper Berry Studio/Storefront has been operating in Smithers since 1987. The Main Street store is based around the open pottery workshop and markets the works of a wide variety of BC artisans as well as our own lines of functional stoneware. We keep busy year round with a tourist market and strong local and regional support here in the BC northwest. When I woke up this spring, I realized "**We need more pots and clay things!**" I'm looking for anything from bread and butter items to one of a kind, raku, earthenware, and stoneware. Terms are consignment (38% commission), or wholesale purchasing on occasion. Call Tenley Dahlte at 847-9871, or write to Box 572, Smithers, BC, V0J 2N0.

## CALLS FOR ENTRY

**The Harmony Arts Festival** sponsored by the West Vancouver Parks and Rec Department will be held during the week of August 9 to 15, 1993. The Festival is unique in that it provides a venue for local artists (North Shore or Bowen Island residents) of all ages within its "ArtBeat", a street gallery that features visual arts in combination with the merchant core. Application deadline is May 28; applications can be picked up at the Ferry Building Gallery, the North Shore Arts Commission and the Silk Purse, or by calling Sarah at 925-3605.

The **Community Arts Council of Vancouver** invites artists and artisans interested in exhibiting at the CAC during the 93-94 season to submit proposals. The Visual Arts Committee will jury all proposals in July and plan the CAC exhibition schedule. Submission forms and information available from the Council. Deadline: July 1st. Phone:

## UNCLASSIFIED ADS

**Wanted:** Suggestions (or better) for air expulsion from a spray booth. Anna Bjarnason has just built herself a booth, and then has been horrified to discover the cost of an extractor fan. Call her at 294-6775, or leave a message at the Guild office if you have any recommendations.

**For Sale:** Great Value! All pottery equipment and glaze materials at half price or less. Variable speed wheel, gram scale, tools and large range of glaze materials and oxides. Phone Jim at 522-4125.

**For Sale:** 8 cu.ft. Olympic gas/propane kiln. Shelves and valves included. \$650. Call Keiko after 6 pm at 985-9374.

**Remember! Unclassified ads are now free to Guild members. See page two for rates for non-members.**



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### NOTES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The *Ceramic Toxicology* article offered to members (for the price of a stamped self-addressed envelope) we lately discover to have originally been published in *Contact* magazine and further more, written by **Len Digance**, a B.C. potter and long-standing member of the Potters' Guild. Thank you, Len, and our apologies for not picking up on this earlier!

Our thoughts have been with the **Cranberry Pottery** folks in Powell River

since we learned of the fire that swept their studio early in the winter. To **Carol, Pam and everyone else** involved at the pottery, we're happy to hear that you've rebuilt. Brava! and keep up the good work!!

**Elaine Brewer-White** is the focus of a feature article by Zsuzsi Gartner in the Spring issue of *Contact* magazine. Her clay sculptural work can be touching, humorous, menacing, or simply

amazing, particularly when the lights are switched on!

A majolica piece by **Linda Bain-Woods** has received the Ontario Crafts Council's Design Award in **FUSION's** 1993 juried exhibition, **Fireworks**. Hers was one of eight works singled out for special distinction from more than two hundred entries. Congratulations, Linda!

- ☐ 1993 Membership Application
- ☐ Membership Renewal
- ☐ Change of Address

Mail to: The Potters Guild of B.C.  
1359 Cartwright St.  
Vancouver, B.C. V6H 3R7

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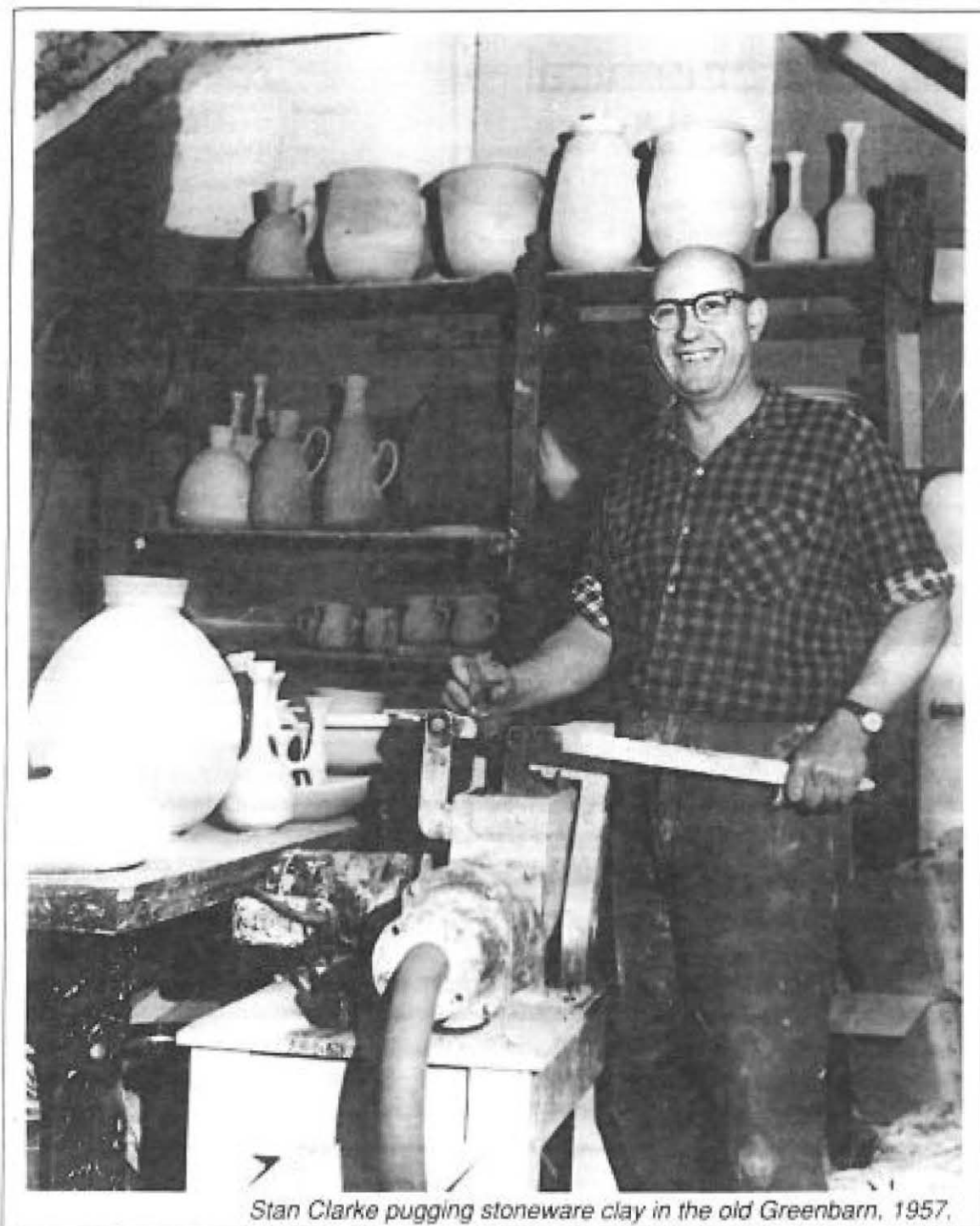
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